

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

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R 111210Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8989
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 9578

EXDIS

DEPT PASS COMIDEASTFOR AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MU
SUBJ: IRANIAN REINFORCEMENTS FOR DHOFAR CAMPAIGN

REF: MUSCAT 727

1. WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE IRAN'S SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO OMAN IS ONLY TEMPORARY. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO DELEGATIONS FROM SULTAN IN IRAN DURING RECENT WEEKS. A GROUP CAME TO CONVEY GREETINGS ON SHAH'S BIRTHDAY AND AN OMANI OFFICIAL, REPORTEDLY DEFENSE MINISTER, RODE IRANIAN SHIP DURING LAST WEEK'S NAVAL EXERCISE IN GULF OF OMAN. APPARENTLY NEITHER OF THESE EMISSARIES SATISFIED SHAH'S DEMAND FOR EXPLANATION OF FONMIN ZAWAWI'S STATEMENT RE IRANIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL. ON NOVEMBER 10, SHAH TOLD AMBASSADOR WITH EVIDENT PLEASURE THAT ZAWAWI HIMSELF WOULD COME TO TEHRAN TO EXPLAIN HIS ACTION.

2. FROM MILITARY SOURCES WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIXTEEN
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206 HELICOPTERS ARE ON STAND-BY AT ISFAHAN. WE

PRESUME THESE ARE SLATED FOR DHOFAR WHEN SHAH'S AUTHORIZATION IS GIVEN.

3. DELAY IN DISPATCH OF IRANIAN TROOPS HAS PROBABLY SERVED IRANIAN PURPOSES. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WE SUSPECT SHAH WAS PLEASED THAT MOVEMENT OF ADDITIONAL IRANIAN TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT TO DHOFAR DID NOT OCCUR TO DRAW ATTENTION OF ARAB LEADERS AT RABAT. DELAY IN REINFORCEMENTS GAVE HIM CHANCE TO SEE WHETHER ARAB SUMMIT WOULD TAKE ANY POSITIVE ACTION ON ARAB FORCE FOR OMAN. 3:9,\$)6, SHAH IS PROBABLY PLEASED NOT TO HAVE RADICAL ARAB PRESS AND LEADERSHIP GIVEN CAUSE TO CRITICIZE IRAN'S ROLE IN OMAN AND THEREBY CLOUD THE ATMOSPHERE JUST PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. AFTER HIS RETURN WE WOULD OT BE SURPRISED BY RESUMPTION IN IRANIAN MOVEMENTS TO OMAN, I.E., IN LATE NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED COMIDEASTFOR OR USCINCEUR.

SECRET

NNN

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